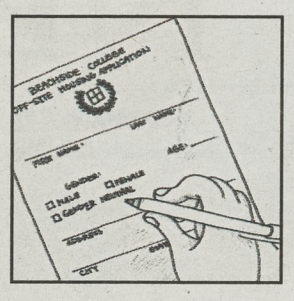
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DAILY 49ER



GENDER-NEUTRAL HOUSING
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Vol. LIX, Issue 696 www.Daily49er.com Thursday, February 20, 2014



TODD JOHNSON | DAILY 49ER
Ilyasah Shabazz delivers a lecture in the Karl Anatol Center yesterday.

Malcolm X's daughter speaks to students, faculty about new book

Ilyasah Shabazz talks about her experiences growing up in Malcolm X's shadow.

BY SCOTT BOSCO
Assistant City Editor

The Karl Anatol Center was overflowing with people who came to hear Malcolm X's daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, speak as part of the Black History Month Distinguished Lecture Series yesterday.

The lecture, titled "A Conversation with Ilyasah Shabazz: History and a Daughter's Memory of Malcolm X," focused on the misconceptions the media has formed about her father, a civil rights activist who was assassinated in 1965 when Shabazz was just two years old.

"In the movie about my father, there was a scene where they showed that my father beginning his transformation in prison after receiving a dictionary from one of the characters," Shabazz said. "In reality, his mother gave him the dictionary when he was just a kid … When he was in this quiet place of jail, he was able to come back to the values that his parents gave him."

See *MALCOLM X*, Page 2

Sundance film to be screened on campus today

The award-winning film explores income inequality in the U.S.

BY VIKANYA CHEA
Contributing Writer

The Multicultural Center is screening an award-winning documentary from the 2013 Sundance Film Festival at the Beach Auditorium today.

The film, "Inequality for All," explores income inequality and problems of wealth distribution within the U.S.

In addition, the film delves into the personal stories of underprivileged individuals and illustrates how they have been impacted by today's economy, said James Sauceda, director of Cal State Long Beach's Multicultural Center.

Directed by award-winning writer and director Jacob Kornbluth, the documentary won a U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Achievement in Filmmaking at Sundance.

Robert Reich stars in the film and is also a chancellor's professor at University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches about wealth and poverty to a class of 700 students.

"I have never seen 700 students more attentive," Sauceda said. "He has a very engaging way of just being very accessible and yet knowledgeable."

Reich, who served under former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and was also the U.S. Secretary

See *FILM*, Page 2



That Sinking Feeling

Above: Junior biomedical and electrical engineering major Paul Oo, left, and junior mechanical engineering major Marycruz Zelaya race boats made from cardboard and tape as part of Engineering Week at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center Wednesday.

Left: Junior civil engineering major Tatiana Braun attempts to float in a boat made from cardboard and tape during an Engineering Week competition.

TODD JOHNSON | DAILY 49ER

VITA offers free tax return services to students

The services are available on campus Monday through Friday.

BY CRYSTAL NIEBLA
Assistant News Editor

Those who have not filed their taxes can pay a visit to the College of Business Administration, where accounting students are processing tax returns for free.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is a program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service that allows volunteers to provide income tax assistance to individuals who may not have easy access to such resources, according to a Cal State Long Beach press release.

Supervised by accounting professor Sudha Krishnan, accounting majors volunteer through VITA to file tax returns for students, international students and off-campus community members, according to the press release.

VITA co-coordinator Jennifer Formeloza said there was a need for the program in the area.

"There was just a need in the community to do this type of service," Formeloza said. "[It is] mostly catered to low- to moderate-income tax payers."

Although the VITA program has been available to students and the community for more than 30 years,

See *VITA*, Page 2

Parking ticket leads to disturbance on campus

By Emily Rasmussen
Contributing Writer

A disturbance was reported Monday afternoon when a person started screaming and hitting the front counters of the Parking and Transportation Services Office, University Police Lt. Richard Goodwin said.

The person who caused the disturbance had received a parking ticket, he said.

No direct threats were made to workers inside the parking office, and the ordeal ended by the time University Police arrived, Goodwin said.

A missing person turns out to be a misunderstanding

University Police received a call about a missing person from a student's elderly mother on Feb. 7, Goodwin said. The call was received around 10:24 p.m., and the mother was worried because her daughter had not returned home from school, Goodwin said.

After further investigation, police found that the reported missing person was not a Cal State Long Beach student but instead was a Cerritos Community College student, Goodwin said.

University Police transferred the report to CCC, and they found that the student was fine, Goodwin said.

Fire department arrives at SRWC to treat sick student

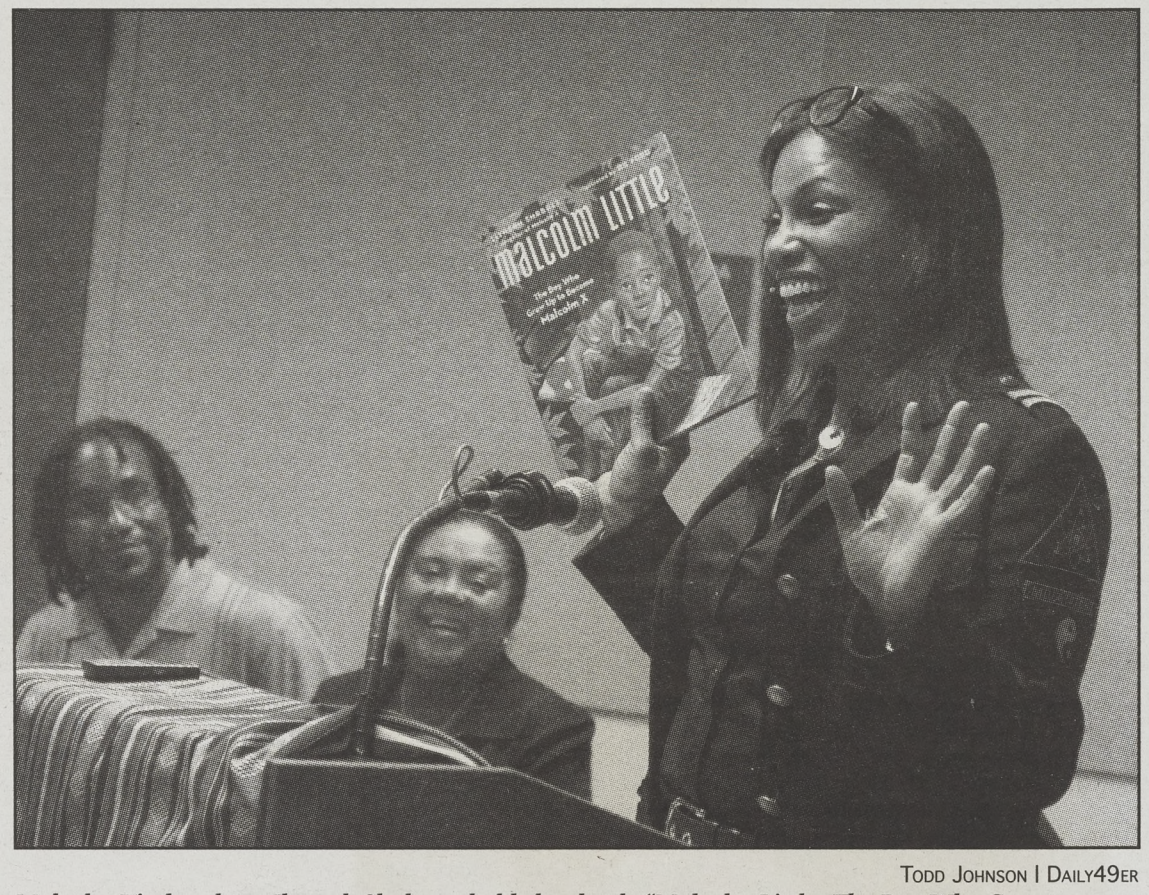
The Long Beach Fire Department responded to a medical call at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on Saturday, Goodwin said.

A student had thrown up in the SWRC but seemed to be fine, Goodwin said. The student walked back to the dorms with a friend, and no other disturbances were reported, he said.

Fight outside the Nugget Grill and Pub

University Police were contacted about a disturbance in front of the Nugget Grill and Pub on Feb. 13, Goodwin said.

Two members of the same fraternity were involved in a physical altercation, he said. Upon further investigation, University Police decided it was not a serious fight, Goodwin said.



Todd Johnson | Daily49er

Malcolm X's daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, holds her book, "Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew up to Become Malcolm X," while delivering a lecture as part of Black History Month.

VITA

Continued from Page 1

Formeloza said people are still unaware of it.

She said many elderly people have been utilizing the services, but she would like to see a larger turnout of students.

This year, VITA has 60 volunteers on campus who are IRS-certified to prepare and e-file basic income tax returns and foreign student tax returns, said Janet Plaza, a VITA volunteer and accounting major.

She said those interested in filing their returns through VITA need to have some form of government identification, such as a California Driver's License or social security card, along with other documents necessary to file the return, such as a W-2 and 1098-T.

The student volunteers, however, can only offer assistance to those who earned $51,567 or less in 2013.

Plaza said this is her first year volunteering for VITA, and on average, she sees four to five people to help file their taxes during her two-hour shift, but she expects the number of visitors to increase.

"Especially [getting] closer to tax season, we're [going to] be really busy," Plaza said.

Psychology major Amanda Aknin said she has been filing her taxes with VITA for three years.

"A lot of us don't know how to do our own taxes or where to go get our taxes done," Aknin said. "I think it's the easiest and cheapest way of getting your taxes done as a student."

Before using VITA's services, Aknin said she would pay $50 to have her taxes filed at H&R Block. She said the 30-minute VITA service is convenient because she has lived on or near campus for the past few years.

VITA is also available in other schools and career centers, Formeloza said.

"The only thing that really differentiates our site from other sites is that we're open throughout the week," she said.

VITA services are offered Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in CBA, Room 237. The program is available through March 28.

Malcolm X

Continued from Page 1

In fact, Shabazz said, there was much more to her father than the militant image the media portrayed of him.

"He was corny … He was this sensitive guy who read Shakespeare and who was very sensitive in his private life," and not a just an angry, masculine figure, she said.

The event was co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Students Association, the Black Faculty and Staff Association and University Outreach and School Relations.

Maulana Karenga, chair of the Africana studies department, spoke about the importance of Black History Month.

"We come to honor Malcolm X because this is the month of his martyrdom," Karenga said. "We are honored here because Malcolm X's daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, carries on her father's legacy."

Freshman theatre arts major Cynthia Harris, who grew up admiring Malcolm X, said she enjoyed how Shabazz humanized his image.

"I came because I am very attached to Malcolm X," Harris said. "I grew up learning about Malcolm X. I really wanted to see what his daughter had to say. I think she did an amazing job putting him in a better light."

Before taking questions from the audience, Shabazz said that her new book, "Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew up to Become Malcolm X," discusses the relationship her father had with his parents, as well as the role parenting had on shaping Malcolm X as a person.

Shabazz also authored "Growing up X," a memoir which focuses on her experiences growing up in the shadow of her father.

Senior political science major John Oney said he attended the event because he was inspired by Malcolm X's activism.

"She did a really good job at breaking down the image of her parents," Oney said. "It's good to get the more human story attached to it because there's so much information about Malcolm X out there."

Film

Continued from Page 1

of Labor for the Clinton administration, will host a live 30-minute webcast at the end of the screening. Students will not be able to directly ask Reich questions.

Sauceda said the film is particularly important for students to watch because Reich has been conducting research for the film for several decades.

"Students [will] see more than a snapshot, in fact, a longitudinal view of America's economy from 1913 to the present," he said.

Sauceda said it is important for people to know that higher education is crucial for moving up the income ladder, especially in the 21st century.

"[The film is] worth seeing on many levels," Sauceda said. "You'll think about things differently, but [the film's] open-ended. It lets you think."

Other schools, colleges and libraries will also screen the film today, according to the film's website.

"Inequality for All" will be shown from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Beach Auditorium.

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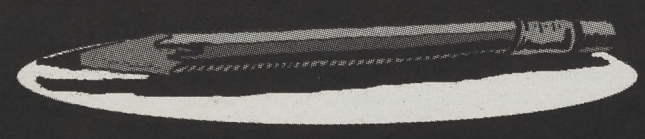
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California leaders propose drought-relief package

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders unveiled a proposed $687.4 million drought-relief package Wednesday to free up water supplies and aid Californians facing financial ruin because of the state's prolonged dry spell.

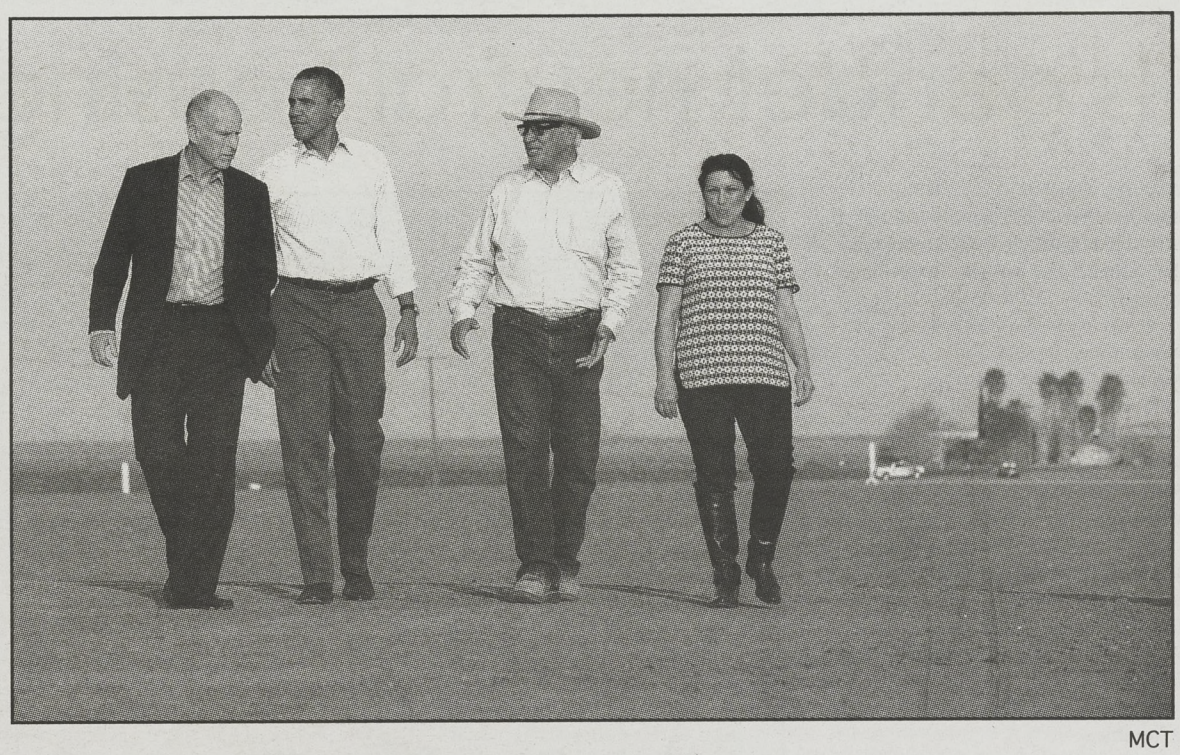
The proposal would provide millions of dollars to clean up drinking water, improve conservation and make irrigation systems more efficient. It would also increase penalties for those who illegally divert water.

The plan also contains money for emergency food and housing for those out of work because of the drought, including farmworkers, and to provide emergency drinking water to communities in need.

Under the legislation, which could be enacted within weeks, the State Water Resources Control Board would be directed to find ways to expand the use of recycled water and storm-water runoff.

Funds also would be available to replenish groundwater supplies, and for state and local agencies to clear brush in drought-stricken areas that pose a high fire risk.

Brown, appearing before reporters at the state's emergency operations center, said that unlike many problems in Sacramento, "this is not caused by partisan gridlock or ideology. It's caused by Mother Nature herself."



MCT

California Gov. Jerry Brown, left, and President Barack Obama walk with farmers Joe and Maria Del Bosque in Los Banos, Calif., while discussing California's drought situation Friday.

"We really don't know how bad the drought is going to be," Brown said. Senate leader Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said the intent was to provide drought relief as quickly as possible and avoid "the ideological vortex" that has bedeviled California water policy for decades.

The new package sidesteps a controversial proposal to replumb the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and is silent on a multibillion-dollar water bond measure scheduled for the November ballot.

"The idea is to do all that we can with the resources we have," Steinberg said.

California's highly charged water issues have also attracted attention in Washington, where House Republicans want to dismantle federal environmental regulations that they say take precious water supplies from California farmers. Such a move is opposed by Democrats, including President Barack Obama.

The president, during a tour of parched San Joaquin Valley croplands last week, raised the GOP's ire by tying California's drought to global warming. He said that unless carbon pollution is curbed, such dry spells will grow more severe.

The president pledged $160 million in federal assistance to farmers, cattle ranchers and others hurt by dry conditions.

No partisan divide is expected to impede the new drought legislation in Sacramento, where Democrats hold a supermajority in the Assembly and Senate and could approve the package without Republican support.

Still, passage is not assured. When it comes to water, Californians are split more by geography than by political allegiance. The Democratic proposal announced Wednesday would pump money into long-term programs as well as provide immediate drought relief to growers and to communities at risk of running out of drinking water supplies. The strategy drew mixed reactions.

Tim Quinn, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, called the legislation "a bold move by the governor" that would help protect the state against future droughts by funding local projects "that can make a difference soon."

Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition, said it was "great" that the bill would help those most affected by the drought. But he lamented that it does not address the thornier issues of water storage and the delta.

"We have to come to grips with that or face that we're going to fallow a lot more farmland and put a lot of people out of work," Wade said.

Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway of Tulare and Assemblyman Frank Bigelow, R-O'Neals, issued a joint statement dismissing the proposal as a "drop in the bucket." The lawmakers said they expect to announce their own plan this week to better address the needs of farmers, small businesses and families.

To pay for the Democrats' drought package, the governor and Democratic leaders want to tap $549 million in borrowing already approved by voters, as well as $40 million in money raised from fees on polluters.

The remainder will come from the state's general fund. No new taxes or fees are included in the proposal.

—Anthony York, Los Angeles Times

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OUR VIEW: Is gender neutral housing for all?

Cal State Long Beach will be introducing gender-neutral housing for the first time this fall.

Director of Housing and Residential Life Carol Roberts-Corb said that a limited number of spaces at Beachside College will be reserved for the gender-neutral housing, which will be provided to students who request special accommodations on their housing application.

Students interested in the gender-neutral housing can select a new option on their housing application. To complete the request, students must also fill out a supplemental license agreement before being assigned the room.

Roberts-Corb said the gender-neutral dorms will not be physically labeled in effort to create a safe and comfortable environment for all students.

These changes come after the introduction of 11 gender-neutral restrooms came to campus in September. We aren't really surprised, as gender-neutral dorms seem to be the next step.

CSULB is one of many campuses across the U.S. that has or will make gender-neutral housing available, including San Diego State and the University of California, Riverside.

The introduction of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus sparked a discussion about providing gender-neutral housing back in September, during the first climate committee meeting for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex students on campus.

DJ Elders, former Associated Students, Inc. Secretary for LGBTQI Affairs, said, "there's been several students who had to ask, 'Hey, can I have another LGBT student, specifically, a transgender student [as a roommate?],'" during the September meeting.

Seven months later, we're excited to see the progress CSULB has made.

Both restrooms and housing are extremely important in creating a comfortable environment for the student, or any individual for that matter.

Although we have been given a little bit of information about the change in housing, we are proud to see our campus going in this direction. And we're also curious to see how this will all pan out in March, when housing applications are made available.

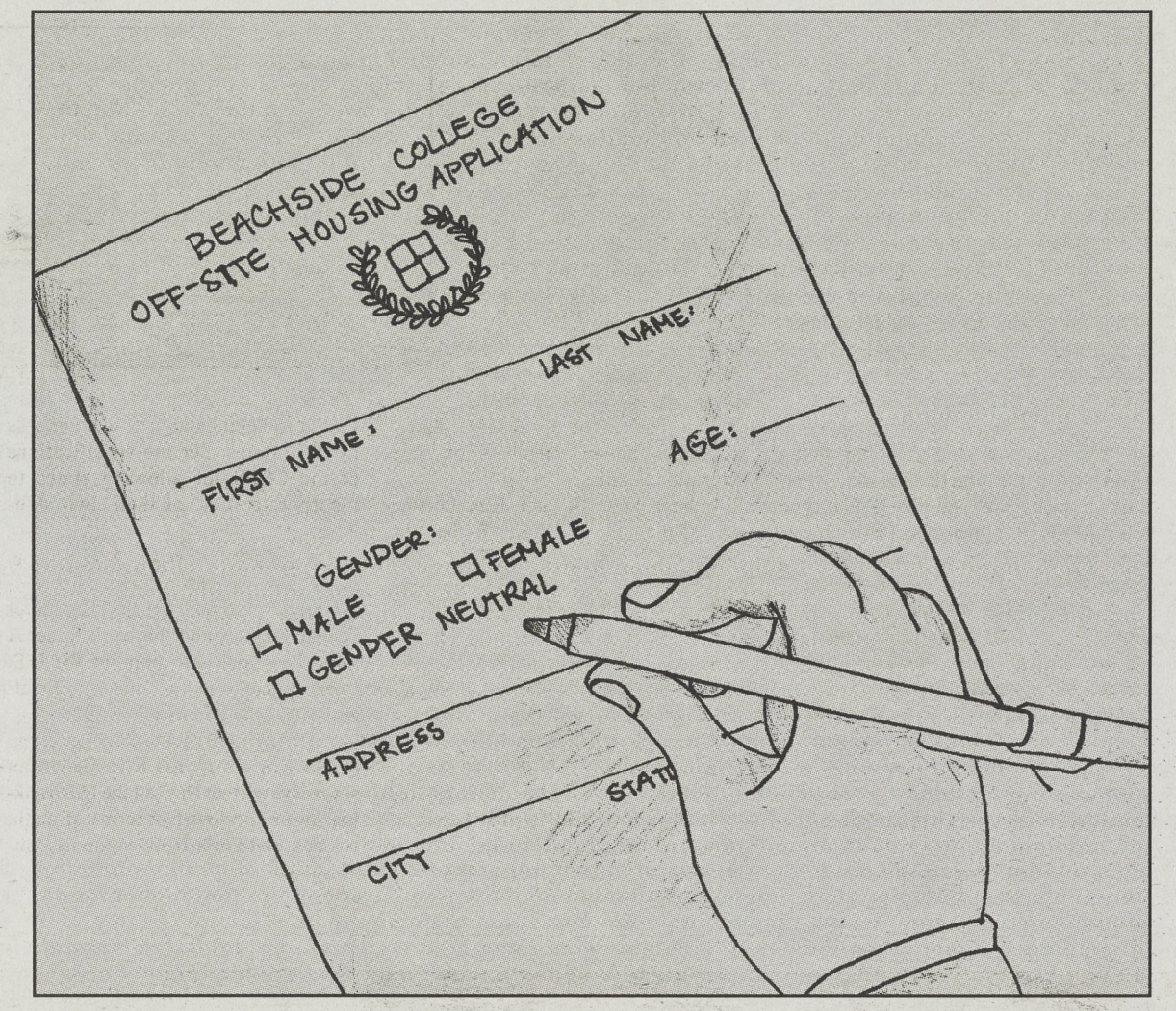
Although the details are still being worked out, we do have a few questions: What exactly does gender neutral mean? Is this for all students, regardless of gender or sexual orientation?

We understand that it's definitely an improvement for LGBTQI students and that it is of the utmost importance for students to live comfortably and safely, but we need to know what the university means by "gender neutral."

Can anyone apply for gender-neutral housing? How does the acceptance process work and how many students will be accepted?

If there is a limited number of rooms, not all students are given the opportunity to choose a roommate based on gender.

The limited amount of space available concerns us and we just hope everony student who requests a room can get one.

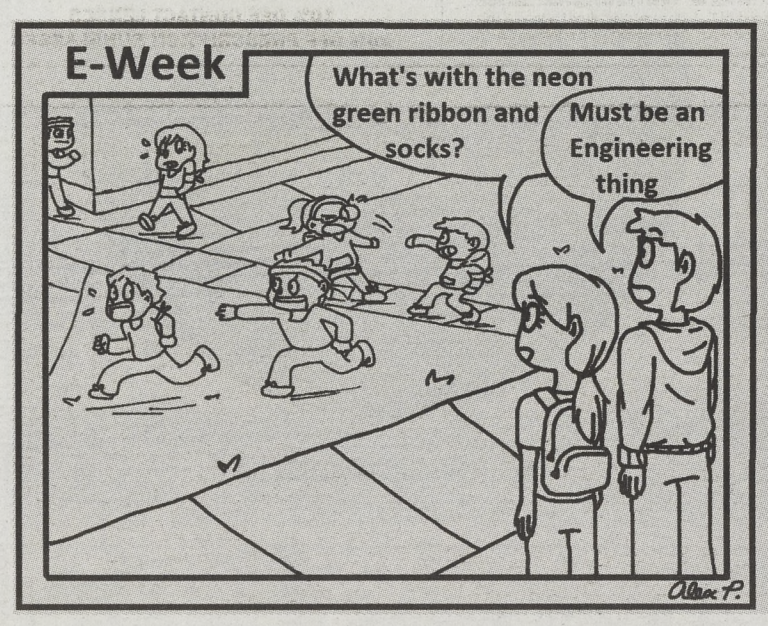


We also wonder where the line for gender neutral is drawn.

There may be students who want to live with the opposite sex, would this mean they would be qualified for a gender-neutral room?

The application process seems a little muddled to us right now but we're hoping once housing irons out the details, everything will clear up.

Maybe it's just the title that confuses us, but ultimately, we would like all students to feel safe and comfortable, whatever that entails.



got opinions?

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The death of cursive in grade schools

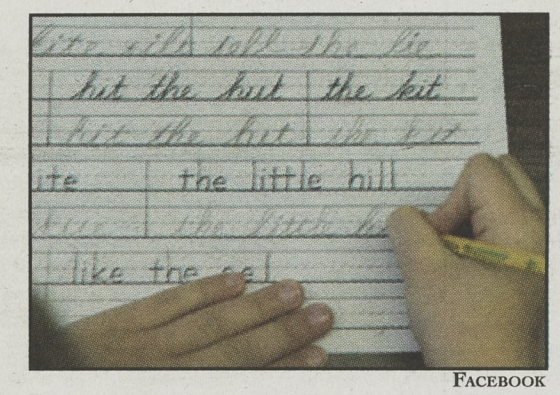
By Paige Pelonis
Contributing Writer

In elementary school I learned to write in cursive. Now in college, I don't even buy pens as a school supply because I type everything. Thank goodness that's the case, or else no one would be able to read my work! But, this brings up a pretty common, though fairly useless, debate: should students in the U.S. public elementary school system still be taught to write in cursive?

There is merit in the supposition that cursive writing is of absolutely no use in the practical world, where most tasks are completed via type. Logically, it follows that a shift toward technological education should take precedent.

On the other hand, there are those who feel that learning to write in cursive is a major benefit to cognitive brain development in children. For instance, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) came out with a Policy Update in September 2012, in which they presented evidence that supports the aforementioned claim.

The NASBE report opens with the explanation that the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) lack guidelines for cursive handwriting. In fact, the CCSS are structured to emphasize keyboard skills instead. The CCSS are a result of an effort led by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO),



FACEBOOK

So naturally, when states began adopting the CCSS in 2010, the debate of whether or not to include handwriting standards slowly developed among members of state education boards.

Indiana State Senator Jean Leising was said to the INDYSTAR that she agrees with the assertion that cursive writing improves motor skills, memory and brain development.

The article implies that it is for that reason that she has successfully convinced her state's Senate to advance a bill that requires the public education system in the state to teach students to write in cursive.

Indiana is one of a handful of states — along with California, Georgia, Alabama and Massachusetts — mentioned in the NASBE update as having fought to keep handwriting standards in their states, per the specifications of the CCSS for allowing states to incorporate some of their own standards.

The CCSS Initiative wesbite home page explains that the goal is to better prepare students once they enter college courses and the work force. A secondary goal is to improve the U.S. international standing in terms of elementary education.

I would argue that the CCSS were put together as a response to studies from several years that showed the U.S. ranking lower and lower in terms of math, science, and English education in global comparison.

Last December, NPR ran a report that detailed the results of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

The report explained the latest assessment from 2012, which found that U.S. high school students ranked below average in math, though they were close to average in reading and science.

Bringing it back to our worthless debate: If American students are performing better in reading than they are in math, then why would we worry about teaching them cursive?

Clearly math literacy is the subject that needs more attention, not literacy itself.

I think a more productive conversation would be to talk about requiring students to memorize the old-school times tables chart, something the Common Core State Standards do not even mention.

There is only a little bit of wiggle-room for states to include their own standards along with the CCSS, and it seems to me that the states reclaiming a handwriting standard for their youths are playing up the possibility of a relationship to brain development in order to justify an emotional waste of time.

For example, North Carolina's "Back to Basics" bill, signed into law in 2013, requires all students in the state's public education system to learn to write proficiently in cursive by the end of their fifth grade year. Why?

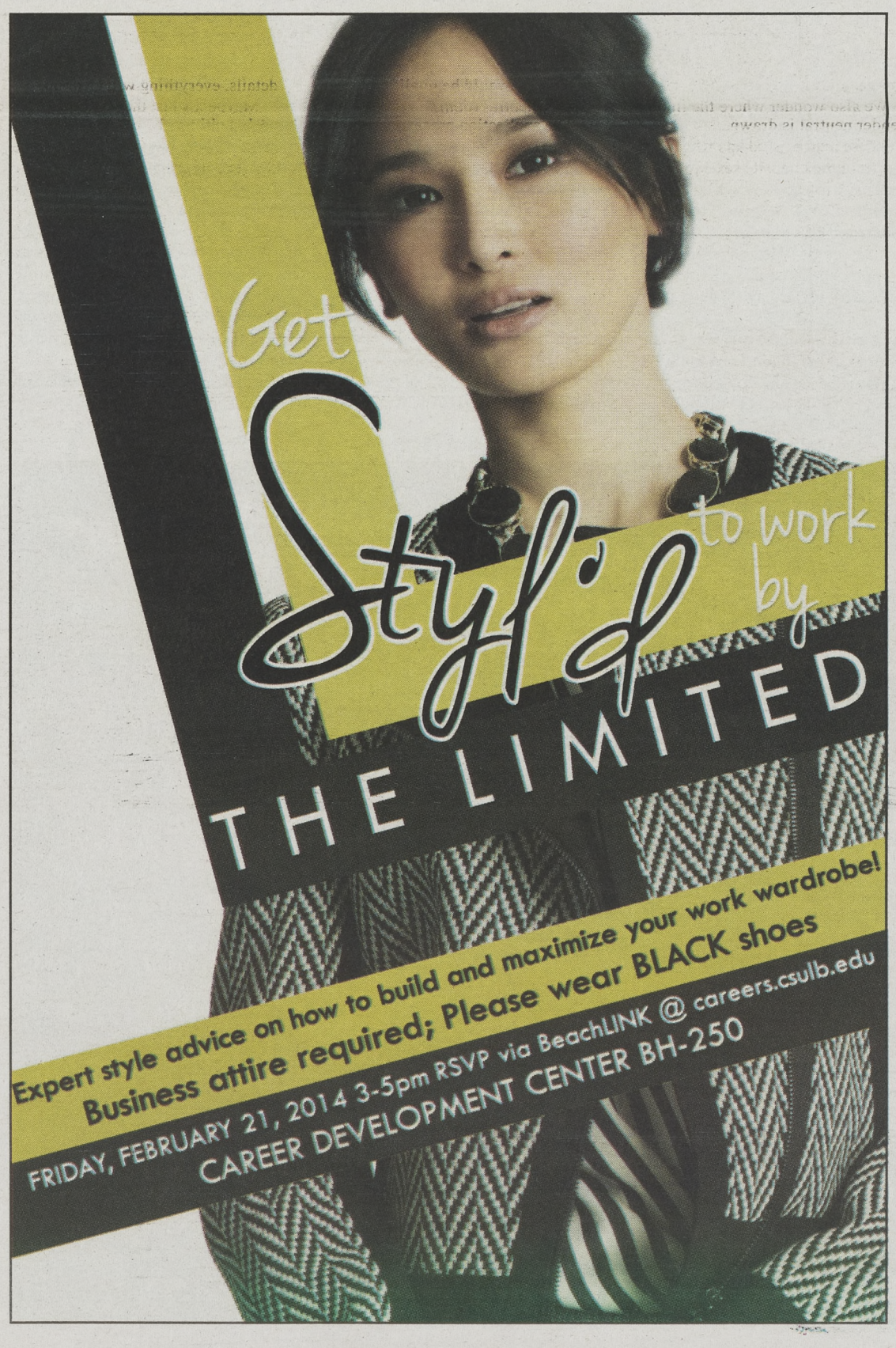
In an article released by the Today Show, North Carolina State Rep. Patricia Hurley, who co-sponsored the bill, said she received many thank-you notes from fourth grade students printed from computers.

"It struck me as strange that they weren't writing ... It was like these kids weren't educated."

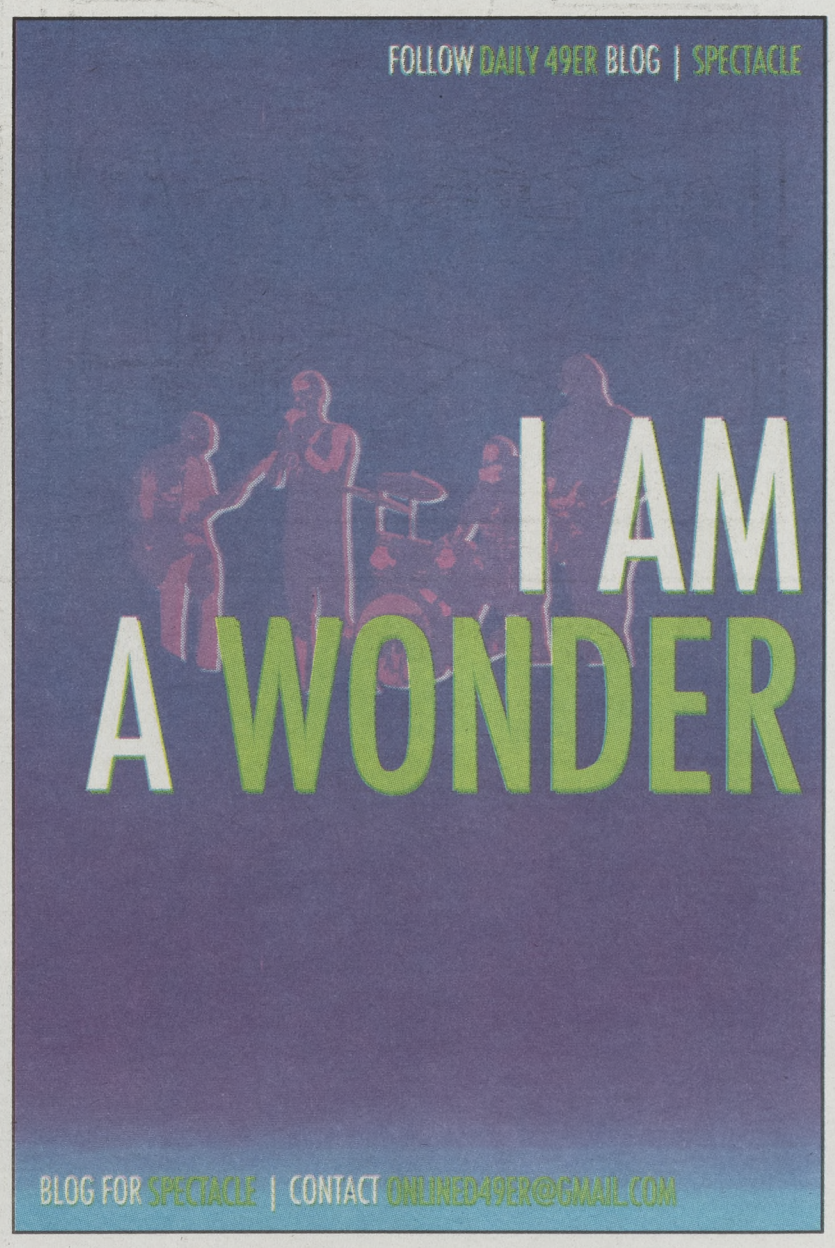
In other words, her fundamental, perhaps somewhat sentimental, attachment to the old-fashioned writing style drove the state to add the cursive element to the already rigorous and complex Common Core State Standards.

Yes, I do know how to write in cursive. Yes, I use it more than I use ordinary hand-writing. But, given the choice between that and typing, for a professional document, I would choose a keyboard.

Typing is faster, cleaner, and easier to transport. Now let's talk about math.



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Brand new flavor in your ear



Phantogram changes their tone in "Voices," an album that shows surrender yet stays true to the band's style.

By Danielle Carson
Diversions Editor

After premiering a stream of singles, Phantogram finally released their third album, "Voices" on Tuesday.

Phantogram, comprised of duo Sarah Barthel and Josh Carter, creeped in from the New York scene with their first EP "Mouthful of Diamonds," followed by the full album "Eyelid Movies" in 2010.

"Ever have the feeling that you've constantly been dreaming this is life" is the album's first lyric and immediately reveals the sentiment on which the album is built.

Unlike past songs like the incredibly catchy "Don't Move," on their 2011 sophomore album "Nightlife," the new album speaks in a clearer, emotionally latent fashion. The musicality and lyrics are bolder and more prominent, and with "Voices," Phantogram maintains the same style for which their original fans waited with bated breath.

Phantogram's first two albums were unique and edgy and allowed the duo to dominate the underground chillwave and synthpop scene. With their new album, Phantogram is propelled to another level, one that will compel fans with emotional statements like never before.

Phantogram exploded into the popular music scene when their song, "Lights," made it onto the "Hunger Games: Catching Fire" soundtrack. Fans of the film began to wonder who was producing the hypnotic vocals and flavorful, hip-hop inspired beats.

Before then, they were largely unknown in the above-ground music scene. Phantogram sound is a slight modification of Crystal Castles, with their relaxed synthesized instrumentals and gently reverberant vocals. Barthel is just as edgy as Crystal Castle's Alice Glass with her jet black hair and leather and studs, except the fact that Barthel wears her heart on her sleeve, which is made apparent throughout "Voices."

Songs like "Bad dreams," "Fall in Love" and "My Only Friend," surrender to vulnerability and passion. Based on the more docile feel of the new album, it's not difficult to see the band is working with a more sophisticated style of music.

"Bill Murray" is the emotional core of the album, although beautiful is not as entertaining as fans of the genre would seek. Nevertheless it's a twist that Phantogram successfully executed.

Although very different, the album has its exciting moments for which Phantogram is loved. For example, In "Howl at the Moon," Barthel belts out excitedly while accompanied by warped hip-hop instrumentals such as randomized high-hats.

While Phantogram's spirit was waned slightly in this new compilation, "Voices" is nevertheless a quality album that's worth a listen.



Beck's first album after a six-year absence, "Morning Phase," is slower paced with hints of angst and unrest.

By Shane Newell
City Editor

Beck has once again struck gold with his twelfth album, "Morning Phase."

Featuring an impressive collection of 13 songs, "Morning Phase" is a slow-moving, musically rich album that features distinct rhythm and pacing.

Billboard has coined him the "Coolest Weirdo in the Room," and his style has always been somewhat quirky.

Those who have not listened to Beck's work before, especially his 2002 album, "Sea Change," may be surprised by the tempo of "Morning Phase."

His past works, notably 2008's "Modern Guilt," features the sounds of psychadelic garage rock and jazz influences, while best-known track "Girl" from 2005's "Guero" is more upbeat.

The new album, however, nearing almost 50 minutes in total length, is deliberately slow-paced. Songs like "Blue Moon" and "Morning" feel like heart-wrenching confessions from a man who has seen so much.

"I'm so tired of being alone / These penitent walls are all I've known / Songbird calling across the water / Inside my silent asylum," Beck croons on "Blue Moon."

Beneath the strings, lush-sounding drums and droning vocals, "Morning Phase" contains an angst and unrest. Beck's lyrics, especially on aforementioned tracks like "Blue Moon," are incredible.

Other tracks like "Waking Light" feature beautiful piano notes that lightly accompany the lyrics so as not to overwhelm them.

While "Morning Phase" may not be the album to listen to if one is in a rock 'n' roll mood, it is definitely the go-to album for those in a ponderous mood. In the vast sonic space of "Morning Phase," there lies a beauty that is yearning to be explored further.

The album will be available on iTunes on February 25th.

Weekend Calendar

Weekend of Feb. 20

African American Film Festival
Saturday and Sunday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
100 Aquarium Way
The Aquarium of the Pacific will host its twelfth annual African-American Film Festival. To celebrate the event there will be a variety of live performances including Mardi Gras second line dancers, hip-hop dancers, and jazz musicians. Admission to the event is granted with purchase of an aquarium ticket.

The Tragedy of Titus Andronicus
Saturday
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Carpenter Performing Arts Center
Have you ever wanted to be in a play, or at least read one aloud? The Carpenter Performing Arts Center will host a free reading of The Tragedy of Titus Andronicus in which attendees can participate. No audition is required.



Softball

49ers off to Palm Springs for next tournament

Long Beach State will take on its second ranked opponent in Louisiana State.

By Oscar Terrones
Sports Editor

The Long Beach State softball team will look to continue its torrid offensive start as it travels to Palm Springs on Thursday for the Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic.

The 49ers (6-4) start the tournament with a double-header against no. 23 LSU (8-4) and Maryland (1-9). LBSU will face three other opponents: Oklahoma State (7-3), New Mexico (1-8) and Syracuse (2-3).

The 49ers have managed a winning record through two tournaments despite inconsistency from star pitcher Erin Jones-Wesley. Head coach Kim Sowder, however, doesn't seem too concerned.

"Never gonna worry about [Jones-Wesley]," Sowder said.

Sowder said she believes a summer injury has led to inconsistent performance, and that it will take some time for her to regain the form that led to a first team All-Big West selection.

Jones-Wesley decided to get some extra work in before the start of Tuesday's practice with catcher Sarah Carrasco. The focus was on Jones-Wesley's control and pitch location, and how to avoid giving up big hits. Jones-Wesley relies on Carrasco's guidance, with words of encouragement after every practice pitch.

"There isn't a pitcher this season that hasn't given up a couple of hits or runs," Sowder said.

When asked about who would be starting against LSU, Sowder declined to reveal her starter.

"There's a lot of scouting in advance of these games," Sowder said. "I don't want to give the opposition any advantage on us."

LSU will be the second ranked team the 49ers will play this season. The Tigers have won 8 out of their last 10 games since dropping their first two of the season. The losses didn't effect LSU's ranking much, as they only dropped two spots from their preseason no. 21 ranking.

> **"We have so many contributors on offense, so many hitters that can beat you."**
> *— Kim Sowder, head coach*

The 49ers' offense has been among the best so far this season, with Big West Player of the Week Ashley Holmes leading the way. The junior is hitting .519 with a team-leading five home runs in nine games. Her 14 hits also lead the team, and Sowder believes she's always had the talent.

"[Holmes] works extremely hard," she said. Sowder said she thinks that more playing time and better preparation has led to Holmes' breakout season.

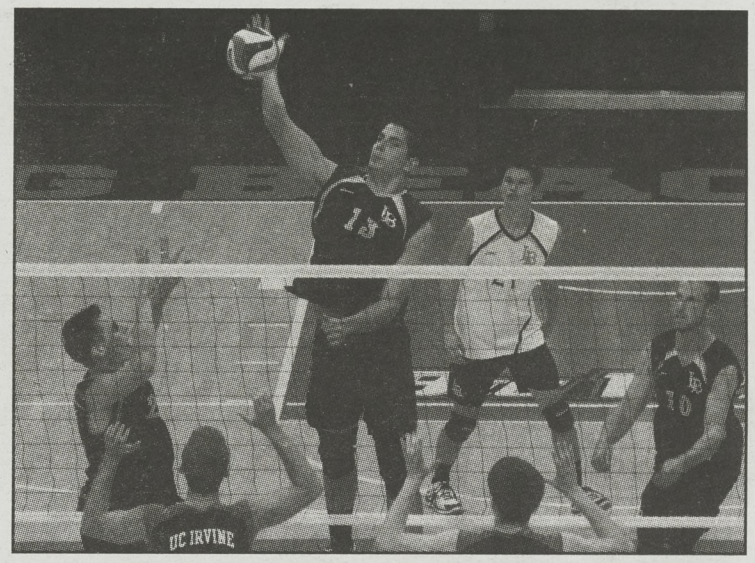
With a thriving offense and steady defense, Sowder believes the 49ers are close to being a complete team.

"It's all about putting it all together," Sowder said. "We have so many contributors on offense, so many hitters that can beat you."

The head coach said the main focus in practice has been to stay sharp.

"We have to continue to get experience and get better in all phases — offense, defense and pitching," she said.

The 49ers' first game of the tournament will start Thursday at 3 p.m. against LSU.



Todd Johnson | Daily 49er
Taylor Gregory (13) attempts a kill during Wednesday's game.

Volleyball

Continued from Page 8

a quick 25-16 conquest in the second set.

Although the night was in favor of the 49ers, the Anteaters (9-8, 6-7 MPSF) showed up with some guts in the third set as they allowed 10 tie scores and four lead changes and stayed in the lead for the first half of the set.

Jeff Ornee and Connor Olbright stayed aggressive at the net with consecutive blocks while Dalton Ammerman and Crabb took consistent swings. After Taylor Gregory put his team at match point with an ace, Irvine couldn't hold on and ended the set at 25-22.

The 49ers look foward to the next seven matches at home and will continue aiming for victory.

"It's definitely nice to know that we don't have to hop in the vans for long hours for a long while," head coach Alan Knipe said. "We will take advantage of playing at home and try to keep winning."

The 49ers will face UC San Diego Friday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. inside the Walter Pyramid.

Pink

Continued from Page 8

strong Christian faith for getting through the tough time. She recalled the daily routine of watching her mother Sara fight the cancer that lasted nine years after Sara was diagnosed when Sanchez was just one year old.

"I saw her in and out of the hospital; I saw her lose her hair; I saw her go through chemo, and she never once complained," Sanchez said. "I play every game like it's my last. I always believe that everything happens for a reason. Losing a mother, I'm always thinking that things could be worse. Playing basketball is what kept me together and made me who I am."

The last time LBSU faced UC Davis, the Aggies came out on top after a 63-60 game that went down to the final possession.

With just under a minute to go, Sanchez tied it up 60-60, leaving 33.1 seconds on the clock. But junior guard Kelsey Harris, a transfer out of Iowa State, hit a 3-pointer that gave the Aggies a 63-60 that they would hold until the final buzzer, despite attempts to tie the game in the final seconds from junior Lauren Spargo and freshman Raven Benton.

Although the final score was close, poor play by the 49ers on offense made the rest of the game an uphill climb that the 49ers couldn't overcome, as they shot 35.6 percent from the field compared to the Aggies' 44.2 percent.

"It's important that we get going early in any game," Wynn said. "We put ourselves in a huge hole against Santa Barbara last week and found ourselves climbing back as time ran out. Against Cal Poly, we started off playing well right out of the gates."

The Beach shot the ball well and kept the turnovers to a minimum, allowing the 49ers to upset the reigning Big West champions, who were in first place before LBSU beat them on the road last Saturday.

Sydnee Fipps leads UC Davis in scoring with 17.9 points per game, which puts her at third-best in the Big West. The 49ers will also have to worry about Aggie anchor Alyson Doherty who is averaging 12.1 points and 6.1 boards a contest.

Wynn said that even with Sanchez sitting out with injury, the co-captain would be on everyone's mind as the team takes the court.

"Alex [Sanchez] is not able to play in this game, but this game is played with Alex [Sanchez] in mind and with a heavy heart," Wynn said. "One thing that I promise you that you'll see is a lot of heart out on the court. Not only would she be playing in honor of her mom — which she does on a regular basis — we're playing in honor of Alex too [Sanchez]."

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Men's Volleyball

Long Beach State sweeps defending champs UCI

The 49ers take down their rivals in three sets at the Pyramid.

By Anita Wang
Staff Writer

The Long Beach State men's volleyball team transformed the Black and Blue Rivalry Series into a bright one as it swept two-time defending national champion UC Irvine to kick off an eight-game homestand.

LBSU (8-4, 7-4 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) is happy to finally be able to take a break from traveling and play in the comfort of its own home.

"The difference with playing at home is that it's just comforting when we walk in here on game days," senior Taylor Crabb said. "It's always nice to have the fans behind us instead of against us."

Crabb, the only 49er to register double digits in kills, carried his team with 19 kills and hit a .485 clip.

The night seemed bleak as the 49ers trailed the entire first set until Crabb showcased an ace serve followed by a kill off an Anteater's shoulder and gave his team its first lead at 21-20. The team's good defense allowed Crabb to score three more points to snatch the winning set at 25-23.

The 49ers continued to prevail as their momentum helped them cruise to

See *Volleyball*, Page 7



Todd Johnson | Daily 49er
LBSU 's Jeff Ornee blocks a shot from UC Irvine's Connor Hughes (2).

49ers going pink for breast cancer awareness

Long Beach State will try to raise funds for breast cancer awareness at Thursday's women's basketball game vs. UC Davis.

By Michael Morris
Assistant Sports Editor

The Long Beach State women's basketball team will be hosting UC Davis for its annual Breast Cancer Awareness game Thursday at 7 p.m.

Head coach Jody Wynn and junior co-captain Alex Sanchez know this disease all to well, as they've seen first hand the toll breast cancer took on their mothers.

"The game is special to me because my mom battled breast cancer, but luckily it's in remission," Wynn said. "This is more than a game. It's an opportunity across the country to raise awareness. It's not just to wear pink, it's for a very important cause."

> **"I lost my mother from breast cancer when I was nine, and she's the reason why I play basketball."**
> *— Alex Sanchez, junior guard*

This annual 'Pink Game' is hosted by Play 4Kay and is an opportunity for teams across the country to raise breast cancer awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

Sanchez lost her mother to the disease in 2001 when Sanchez was just nine years old. Unfortunately for her and her teammates, the junior guard has been forced to sit out since Jan. 18 against Cal Poly and won't be able to take the court against UC Davis.

"I lost my mom from breast cancer when I was nine, and she's the reason why I play basketball," Sanchez said. "She's the one that put me into basketball, and right off the bat I loved it."

Sanchez credited her family and

See *Pink*, Page 7



Kyusung Gong | Daily 49er
Alex Sanchez, shown wearing pink shoelaces during last year's National Invitational Tournament game against Utah, lost her mother to breast cancer when she was nine years old.

Men's Basketball

'Niners to head north for road game at UC Davis

By Jason Clark
Sports Editor

The last time the Long Beach State men's basketball team faced UC Davis, it scored 30 unanswered points to start the second half.

While the chances of history repeating itself this weekend are slim, the 49ers will be playing UC Davis again on Thursday, this time up north in Davis, Calif.

The Aggies (8-17, 3-7 Big West) have had a rough time in conference play, as they sit just half a game ahead of last-place UC Riverside in the Big West standings. Their worst loss in conference play remains the 25-point defeat they endured at the Walter Pyramid on Jan. 11.

As for the 49ers (11-14, 7-4 Big West), all four of their conference losses have come on Thursdays. After Saturday's win over Cal Poly, head coach Dan Monson joked that "we're better coaches on Saturdays than on Thursdays."

"I told our guys that we're going to switch up our week a little bit," Monson said. "We only have a Thursday game this week, and we're going to play it like a Saturday game. We're going to change the days of the week or something."

Superstition and days of the week aside, to beat UC Davis, the 49ers will have to slow down guard Corey Hawkins. Hawkins ranks second in the Big West with 18.5 points per game. He is also tied for first with LBSU's Mike Caffey in steals with 1.5 per contest.

With UC Irvine two games ahead of The Beach and the regular season winding down, the remaining games are more for seeding than anything else. The 49ers are tied for third with Hawaii and half a game behind UC Santa Barbara.

Thursday's game is set for 7 p.m. at UC Davis' The Pavilion.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday
Softball
Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic
vs. Louisiana State, 3 p.m.
vs. Maryland, 5:30 p.m.
Palm Springs, Calif.

Men's basketball
at UC Davis, 7 p.m.
Davis, Calif.

Women's basketball
vs. UC Davis, 7 p.m.
Walter Pyramid

Men's golf
John A. Burns Intercollegiate
Second round, all day
Wailua Golf Course, Hawaii

Friday
Women's tennis
at Cal State Northridge, 1 p.m.
Northridge, Calif.

Baseball
vs. Arizona State, 6 p.m.
Blair Field

Men's volleyball
vs. UC San Diego, 7 p.m.
Walter Pyramid

Men's golf
John A. Burns Intercollegiate
Final round, all day
Wailua Golf Course, Hawaii

Saturday
Baseball
vs. Wright State, 2 p.m.
Blair Field

Softball
Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic
vs. Oklahoma State, 5:30 p.m.
vs. New Mexico, 8 p.m.
Palm Springs, Calif.

Sunday
Baseball
at UC Irvine, 1 p.m.
Irvine, Calif.

Softball
Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic
vs. Syracuse, 2 p.m.
Palm Springs, Calif.

Monday
Women's golf
UC Irvine Invitational
First and second rounds, all day
Santa Ana Country Club

Tuesday
Baseball
vs. USC, 6 p.m.
Blair Field

Women's golf
UC Irvine Invitational
Final round, all day
Santa Ana Country Club

WINTER OLYMPICS

MEDAL COUNT

COUNTRY	TOTAL	G-S-B
United States	23	7-5-11
Russia	22	6-9-7
Netherlands	22	6-7-9
Norway	20	9-4-7
Canada	18	5-9-4
Germany	15	8-3-4